

# THE CAUSE OF CHRIST

by Mark Beaird

**Text: Matthew 23:37**

What is our attitude toward the lost? If it is not the attitude that Christ had, it needs to be. The very cause of Christ—the very purpose of Christ, is to win the lost.

Therefore, the cause of Christ is not a burden for only the most pious to carry. It is not an act of religious duty that we force ourselves to do despite the drudgery of it all. It is the heartbeat of our Savior and should be our deepest heartfelt desire as well.

The reason our attitudes should be the same as His is because our attitude determines our effectiveness in His work. Jesus set us an example of what our attitude should be. He was heartbroken over the condition of the lost. Notice several reasons that can be seen in the Word.

## I. HE SAW THEIR NEED.

### A. He saw their need for a substitute.

We could not pay the price for our sins, so He did.

■ In I Peter 2:24 Peter tells us, speaking of Jesus, "Who His own self bare our sins in His body on the tree, that we, **being** dead to sins should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed."

### B. He saw their need for strength to overcome sin.

■ Paul said in Romans 5:6-8 "For when we were yet **without strength**, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**C. He saw their need for a Friend who would not leave them.**

■ John 15:13-16 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you And appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit Should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." (NKJ)

## **II. HE SAW THEIR FUTURE.**

**A. He saw their future in the Great Tribulation.**

■ Luke 23:28-31 says, "But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. "For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' "Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" "For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?" (NKJ)

**B. He saw their future judgment.**

■ Psalms 9:17 tells us that, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

**C. He saw their future torment. (Story of the rich man)**

■ Luke 16:23 "And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

### **III. HE SAW THEY WERE UNPREPARED.**

#### **A. They were unprepared despite their religious activity.**

■ Jesus said in Luke 11:42, "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. (NIV)"

#### **B. They were unprepared despite their heritage.**

■ John 8:37, "I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you."

#### **C. They were unprepared because of their hard hearts.**

■ John 12:39-40 "Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." (NKJ)"

### **CONCLUSION**

A true story: A flight from Denver to Wichita was boarding. On an ambulance litter an attendant carried a 225-pound man as the last traveler to board. As they cradled him into a seat in front of us, it was evident that he was totally paralyzed from his shoulders down. He was strapped in tightly, but as the pilot taxied to the runway the centrifugal force lunged him to the right causing him to fall toward the next seat. The stewardess again propped him up in an upright position. Hastily, we were airborne. Beverages were served, then a meal. As I finished the meal, I looked up to see the paralyzed gentleman, probably twenty-seven years old,

with the meal before him with no one to feed him. My eyes filled with tears. The hostesses were busy serving food to all passengers, but here was a person traveling alone who could only look at the meal. It was beautifully prepared, tasty, and far above average for airline food.

Before I could wipe the tears from my eyes, I slipped from my seat to his side and inquired if the stewardess would be helping him eat. He did not know. I asked if I might not help him. He responded with, “Oh, thank you, I would be so grateful for your help.” As I cut the meal into bite sizes and placed them in his mouth, I felt awkward, conspicuous, but much needed. Before long I was coordinating as well as if they were entering my own mouth. He told me of his unfortunate accident, his lonesomeness, his joys, his struggles, his faith his hope. His name was Bill. Our spirits blended—we experienced sacrament! Upon returning to my seat, my spirit was humbled as I thought of the people who have had the good news of the gospel set before them. It's available but no one to feed them. Crippled with spiritual and psychological paralysis—and no one to feed them. (Hewett)